

Application No. 09/496,061
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 46-51 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of previously cited USP 4,875,091 ("Yamada et al") in view of newly cited USP 5,181,100 ("Hodgson"). This rejection, however, is respectfully traversed.

As explained in the Amendment filed on April 1, 2005, according to the present invention as recited in independent claim 46, corresponding independent method claim 51, and independent claim 50, an endoscope image sensing apparatus is provided which comprises: an image sensing device for imaging an object to obtain an image signal, and outputting the image signal; a storage section for storing a plurality of color matrices each corresponding to a plurality of color tones for displaying an observation image of the object on a display section; a selecting section for selecting a color matrix from the plurality of color matrices for displaying the observation image in a color tone desired by an observer; and a computing section for performing computation using the selected color matrix to convert the image signal output from the image sensing device to a color component signal.

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On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner acknowledges that Yamada et al does not disclose selecting a color matrix (from a plurality of stored color matrices) in a color tone desired by an observer.

For this reason, the Examiner has cited Hodgson to supply the missing teaching of Yamada et al. In addition, with respect to claim 47 the Examiner has asserted that it would have been obvious to modify Yamada et al and Hodgson to sense an image with a color CCD.

It is respectfully submitted, however, that Hodgson does not disclose, teach or suggest image processing for endoscopes. And it is respectfully submitted that (as recognized by the Examiner) Yamada et al (as well as the other prior art of record relating to image processing for endoscopic images) does not disclose, teach or suggest selecting a color matrix as recited in independent claims 46, 50 and 51 to perform image processing for the image captured via the endoscope image sensing apparatus in the manner of the claimed present invention.

It is respectfully pointed out, moreover, that the Examiner has not pointed to any objective teaching in Hodgson or in Yamada et al that would provide a motivation for combining the two references as suggested by the Examiner.

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Indeed, it is respectfully submitted that, in fact, there one of ordinary skill in the art would have had no motivation to combine Yamada et al and Hodgson in the manner suggested by the Examiner.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in independent claims 46, 50 and 51, and claims 47-49 depending from claim 46, clearly patentably distinguishes over Yamada et al and newly cited Hodgson under 35 USC 103.

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In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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